



BIC'S GREEN SUPPLY CHAIN COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2021-22

In line with BIC's Green Promise and Agenda

[BIC's Green Promise](#)

BIC is the book industry's supply chain organisation and it is in the supply chain that the most significant changes can be made to help organisations lower their carbon footprints and become greener. BIC is committed to championing the green agenda and providing leadership to provide organisations with the tools and resources to help them make their supply chains greener and more sustainable.



Book Industry Communication’s Green Supply Chain Committee Work Plan

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Book Industry Communication's Green Supply Chain Committee Work Plan (v.1.0)

30th September 2021

Introduction

Book Industry communication Ltd (BIC) is the UK book industry's dedicated supply chain organisation, and it is in the supply chain that the most significant changes can be made to help organisations lower their carbon footprints and become greener. BIC is committed to championing the green agenda and providing leadership to provide organisations with the tools and resources to help them make their supply chains greener and more sustainable.

In accordance with [BIC's Green Promise and agenda](#), BIC's [Green Supply Chain Committee](#) has now agreed its Work Plan for the coming months and years.

What follows is the Work Plan agreed for BIC generally, the BIC Green Supply Chain Committee specifically and collaborative partners where appropriate or required. It is assumed much of the work will be carried out by an environmental specialist consultant or consultancy to be recruited by BIC and [The Green Book Alliance](#) (GBA).

Context for the Work Plan

In agreement with the BIC Green Supply Chain Committee, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) have been used as the basis, or framework, for the Work Plan.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

There are [17 SDGs](#) in total as follows:

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals



UN SDGs and BIC Strategy 2021

In line with its 2021 strategy, the BIC Green Promise and with regards to greening the supply chain, BIC has provisionally identified 7 of the UN SDGs as currently appropriate for its membership, remit, and as applicable to the book industry supply chain as follows:

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 15: Life on Land
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

In selecting these 7 SDGs, BIC is not minimizing the importance of all the other goals, but rather selecting those it considers most appropriate given its remit and purpose. Each of the SDGs has its own set of Targets, and each Target has a set of Indicators to help monitor progress. BIC will be working towards those goals and indicators that it feels best represent the book industry supply chain and where differences can be achieved. The appropriate Targets and Indicators have been listed on the accompanying excel spreadsheet.

The Work Plan – Summary

What follows is a headline summary of the Work Plan for the BIC Green Supply Chain Committee specifically, BIC more broadly and collaborative partners as required. This is the result of much discussion, debate, review and finally agreement and sign off by the BIC Green Supply Chain Committee.

The different *types* of initiatives fall into the following 8 broad areas:

1	Training and events	BIC to build upon and develop its current Green Supply Chain training and events programme
2	Marketing and promotion	Marketing, promotion, and expanding the visibility of BIC's key role and remit in this area.
3	Standards	Reach cross industry agreement on standardised environmental reporting protocols
4	Industry requirements	Data centres - establish what the book industry requirements are here with regards to the environment and sustainability.



5	Industry resources and hub/portal	Green Book Alliance (GBA) website as a global portal/hub for book industry supply chain resources (develop, maintain, and promote). Build upon the BIC Green Hub as the UK portal.
6	Accreditation	Expand BIC's Supply Chain Excellence Accreditation scheme to include a dedicated section on sustainability, utilising reference to other industry certifications already in existence where/if appropriate. ("Green Tick"?)
7	Collaboration	Collaboration between BIC, The Publishers Association (The PA) and The Booksellers Association (The BA) to identify opportunities to improve the industry's carbon footprint, GHG emissions, and sustainable consumption and production. Continued collaboration with The Green Book Alliance (GBA).
8	Projects/Reports	<p>Research and publish a "Designed for Recycling Project" (including End of Lifecycle of book)</p> <p>Research and publish a report on the impact of returns on the environment</p> <p>Research and publish a report on the impact of sustainability considerations on the end product and consumer</p> <p>Research and publish a report on eBook v. print book investigating the carbon footprint and end user experience for each.</p>

And cover the following more specific *7 categories*, all of which are expanded upon below:

1. Events, Training, Information Resources & Lifelong Learning
2. Sustainable Consumption and Production
3. Designed for Recycling Project
4. Accreditation
5. IRI, Returns – Waste Prevention
6. Communications, Reporting and Behaviours
7. Green Book Alliance – International Sustainability Hub for the book industry



The UK Book Industry's Supply Chain Organisation

BIC's Green Supply Chain Committee Work Plan

Categories, Description of Work, Priorities, and Relevant UN SDG(s) Addressed

Priority	Category	Description of Work	SDGs addressed
3	1. Events, Training, Information Resources & Lifelong Learning	i) BIC Training courses, webinars, events: Monitor for inclusivity, promote and improve.	4, 12, 13
3		ii) Ensure BIC committees, project groups and Board encourage diversity and inclusivity from within the membership.	
1		iii) Agree and develop the role of the new BIC Board members with regards promotion of BIC training courses, industry initiatives, and standards.	
1		iv) Consider free or subsidised training for those out of work/disadvantaged in partnership with other organisations such as the Book Trade Charity, BookCareers etc.	
1		v) Create a programme of promotional activity that reaches beyond the BIC membership and promotes new and continued learning amongst book industry professionals.	
1		vi) Research, curate and promote a directory of sustainability resources for the UK book industry, including BIC courses & webinar recordings. Measure and report on engagement.	
3		vii) Continue to grow and develop the successful Green BIC Brunch series and other educational initiatives	
1		viii) Research and develop the creation of book industry sustainability training modules with industry certification. To include or start with shipping/transportation awareness generally, i.e., pollution and myth and jargon busting.	
1		ix) Develop & promote the environmental content of existing BIC Production training courses.	



2		x) Build an industry-wide glossary of environmental terms - beginning with transportation - and develop further into all areas of the green supply chain.	
1	2. Sustainable Consumption and Production	i) Collaboration with The PA and The BA with regards contributing towards and using carbon footprint calculator to identify opportunities to improve industry's sustainability profile.	8, 9, 12, 13
1		ii) Agree other areas for consideration that address sustainable consumption and production in collaboration with The PA and The BA.	
2		iii) BIC to promote the use of renewable energy sources: BIC to research and produce a to a curated a list of industry recommended renewable energy providers.	
1		iv) Work with The PA and The BA to draw up a Sustainable Consumption and Production Plan for the UK book industry.	
2		v) BIC to produce a report on the impact that changes to decrease the environmental impact of the product has on both the finished product, and the consumer.	
2		vi) Utilising the results from DIMPACT research, and with their permission, report on eBook versus print book in terms of carbon footprint and end user experience.	
2		vii) BIC, The BA, and The PA to collaborate to agree remits with regards to number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that are meeting their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement.	
1		viii) Collaborate with The PA with regards to the promotion of the implementation of sustainable forestry management.	
1		ix) Collaboration with The PA with regards to GHG emissions and their reduction.	
1	3. Designed for Recycling Project	i) End-of-life of a book - lifecycle assessment (materials disposals, carbon footprint impact, etc) leading to...	12



2		ii) ...Designed for Recycling project to support responsible production and disposal. Links to BIC's current Out of Print and Ordering Best Practice projects.	
2		iii) BIC to provide more visibility with regards to book donation programmes e.g., National Literacy Trust, Book Aid etc. Provide information regarding this as resource on BIC Green Hub.	
1	4. Accreditation	i) Map both digital and physical supply chains with regards to already existing sustainability/environmental accreditations/standards e.g., FSC and host on The GBA website and BIC Green Hub. Incorporate appropriately into Green section of existing BIC Supply Chain Accreditation Award scheme (SCEA).	4, 9, 12, 15
2		ii) Expand BIC's SCEA (rather than create another accreditation scheme) to incorporate sustainability elements, that can be measured in a meaningful way. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewable energy sources - Hazardous waste disposal - End of life of product/designed for recycling - New/current supplier checklist and reporting - (should include sourcing of goods) - Number of organisations publishing sustainability reports. - Sustainable forestry management 	
2	5. IRI, Returns – Waste Prevention	i) BIC to research and publish a report detailing the impact of returns on the environment with recommendations for improvement including benefits of reduction, recycling, financial cost to the industry. To include Red Box/Green Box promotion and encourage adoption in a consistent manner. Report to also include recommendations for inclusion (in a meaningful, measurable way) into the current BIC Supply Chain Accreditation scheme, cost-benefit analysis of reducing returns, and an analysis of how sustainable the sale-return model is.	12
1		ii) BIC's Ordering Best Practice Project to create training programme for better ordering practices and management to help support a reduction in returns.	



2	6. Communications, Reporting and Behaviours	i)	Produce an industry standard checklist for supplier reporting requirements, potentially with links to other websites, rather than a standard supplier level agreement or KPIs. Need to ensure standardised reporting across the industry. Also need to consider/factor in organisations that work in other sectors, in addition to books. Work with The PA and The BA to reach agreement cross industry on standardising reporting protocols.	12, 17
2		ii)	Data centres as suppliers. carbon footprint, energy consumption, marine, land, waste disposals etc Confirm requirements for book industry. These organisations form substantial part of the Emissions Scope 2 and 3.	
2		iii)	Principles of Offsetting and Best Practice and Guidelines documentation. Such documentation to include researched recommended programmes in a checklist.	
2		iv)	Values, principles, standards, and norms of behaviour: Code of conduct for supply chain partners that are not publishers (The PA will be looking at publishers).	
3	7.Green Book Alliance (GBA) – Sustainability Hub	i)	BIC, as one of the 3 founders, to continue its collaboration and work with The GBA.	17
1		ii)	The GBA to expand and secure funding for global, multi-stakeholder projects and research.	
1		iii)	BIC to work with Book Industry Study Group (BISG) and BookNet Canada (BNC) to develop The GBA website as an international industry portal/hub for all environmental matters, articles, papers, initiatives, events, and national groups by country.	
3		iv)	Use The GBA as a mechanism for mobilising and sharing knowledge, expertise, and technology to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries.	
3		v)	Expand appropriate resources in the BIC Green Hub internationally, i.e., to appropriate areas of The GBA website.	



Priorities Key:

Priority 1 = High importance – urgent – work starting within 3 months (also use for Quick Win)

Priority 2 = High importance – not urgent – work to start next 6 months – 12 months

Priority 3 = Ongoing/already happening

Karina Urquhart,
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The UK Book Industry's Supply Chain Organisation